

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 26846 121925Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4125

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 26846

EXDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, FR

SUBJECT: KHMER ON CONTACTS WITH SIHANOUK IN ALGIERS

REF: PARIS 26636 (EXDIS/NOFORN) (NOTAL)

1. A GKR EMBASSY OFFICER TOLD EMBOFF NOVEMBER 12 OF A CONVERSATION HE HAD RECENTLY WITH A KHMER WHO HAD RECENTLY RETURNED TO PARIS AFTER CONTACT WITH SIHANOUK'S ENTOURAGE IN ALGIERS. ACCORDING TO CONTACT, SIHANOUK WAS GREATLY ENCOURAGED ABOUT FRENCH ATTITUDE TOWARD HIM BECAUSE OF BIRTHDAY WISHES WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED FROM PRESIDENT GISCARD IN ALGIERS ON OCTOBER 31. THE SAME MEMBER OF SIHANOUK'S ENTOURAGE SAID ALSO THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS ASKED BOUMEDIENNE TO BE AN INTERMEDIARY WITH SIHANOUK. CONTACT SAID ALSO THAT FRENCH HAD ALSO BEEN ASKED TO FACILITATE U.S. CONTACTS WITH SIHANOUK TO END CONFLICT IN CAMBODIA.

2. COMMENT: EMBOFF CAST DOUBTS ON RELIABILITY OF THESE REPORTS. AS NOTED REFTEL, FRENCH GAVE NO INDICATION OF THEIR AWARENESS OF NEW INTERMEDIARY ROLE REQUESTED BY SIHANOUK, CHINESE OR U.S., BUT COINCIDENCE OF ALGERIAN INVOLVEMENT MAY BE OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE.
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STONE

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NNN

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